

CLAIMS

1. A member for urging together two or more portions of body tissue and maintaining said portions together until said portions are secured together by scarring thereof, wherein said member is made of a material selected from at least one of metals, alloys and ceramic compounds thereof, such as oxides, which material is bioresorbable and/or biodegradable.
2. The member of claim 1, which is a staple, clip, snap or rivet.
3. The member of claim 1 or 2, wherein said material is a metal alloy containing: a first component which covers itself with a protective oxide coat; and a second component which ensure sufficient dissolution of the oxide coat.
4. The member of claim 3, wherein the first component comprises at least one metal selected from magnesium, titanium, zirconium, niobium, tantalum, zinc and silicon and the second component comprises at least one metal selected from lithium, sodium, potassium, manganese calcium and iron.
5. The member of claim 3 or 4, wherein the components of the metal alloy are selected such that corrosion products originate therefrom in the form of soluble salts, fine particles or colloidal particles or a mixture thereof.
6. The member of claim 3, 4 or 5, wherein the alloy contains zinc as a corrosion-inhibiting component.
7. The member of claim 6, wherein the alloy contains zinc and calcium.

8. The member of claim 7, wherein the alloy has a zinc/calcium weight ratio of at least 21/1.
9. The member of claim 3, 4, or 5, wherein the alloy contains sodium and magnesium.
- 5 10. The member of claim 1 or 2, wherein the bioresorbable and/or biodegradable material is an alloy of zinc and titanium.
11. The member of claim 10, wherein the zinc-titanium alloy has a weight percentage of titanium of 0.1% to 1%.
- 10 12. The member of claim 11, wherein an amount of 0.1 to 2 weight% gold is added as a further component to the zinc titanium alloy.
13. The member of claim 1 or 2, wherein the bioresorbable and/or biodegradable sealing member comprises a support
15 body made of a substantially pure first metal and a local electrode made of a second metal which is in contact with the support body to produce a contact voltage and a resulting current that leads to active degradation of the sealing member.
- 20 14. The member of claim 13, wherein the local electrode is a coat on the support body.
15. The member of claim 13, wherein the local electrode is a metal part attached to the support body.
16. The member of claim 13, 14 or 15 wherein the support
25 body consists essentially of zinc.
17. The member of claim 13, 14 or 15 wherein the local electrode consists essentially of a precious metal.

18. The member of claim 14, wherein said coat is deposited by electroplating or sputtering.

19. The member of any preceding claim, wherein the sealing member is made of a phosphorus-containing alloy.

5 20. The member of any preceding claim, which is a hydrogen-treated alloy.

21. The member of any preceding claim, which is made of an alloy which during use corrodes at such a rate that gases arising during corrosion physically dissolves in a
10 body fluid to which the alloy is exposed.